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BALL6 (ボール)
HEAVINESS

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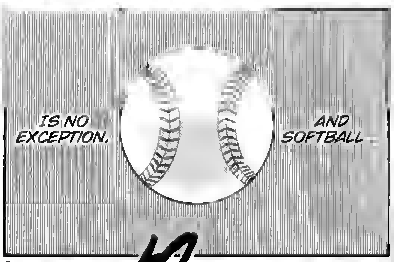
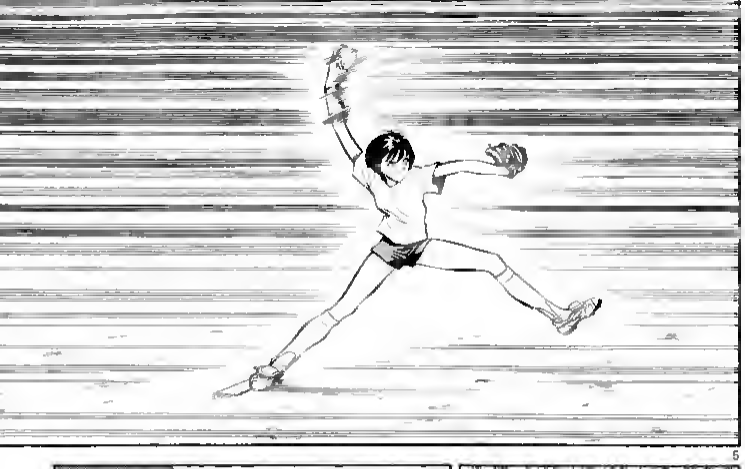


2

THE ULTIMATE EVENT!!

HAI!!
HAI
HAI
HAI
FROM TODAY ON, WE WILL BE ADDING MORNING PRACTICES TO OUR USUAL ROUTINE.
WE HAVE ONE MORE MONTH UNTIL THE SAITAMA INTERHIGH PRELIMS BEGIN.
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO RUNNING!
Hai
okay
Hurry
Hurry
THESE GIRLS HAVE REALLY GOTTEN INTO IT.
AND ALL OF THAT...

...IS THANKS TO HER.
4
HIT



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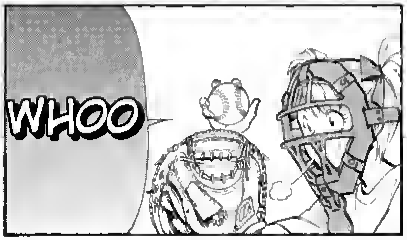

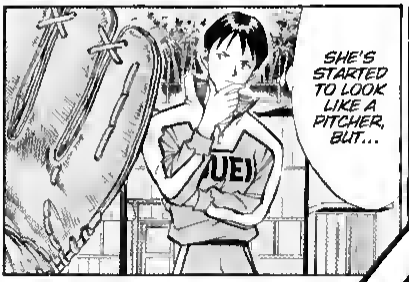

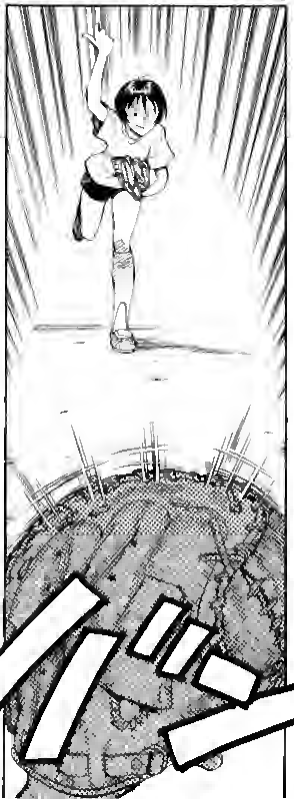

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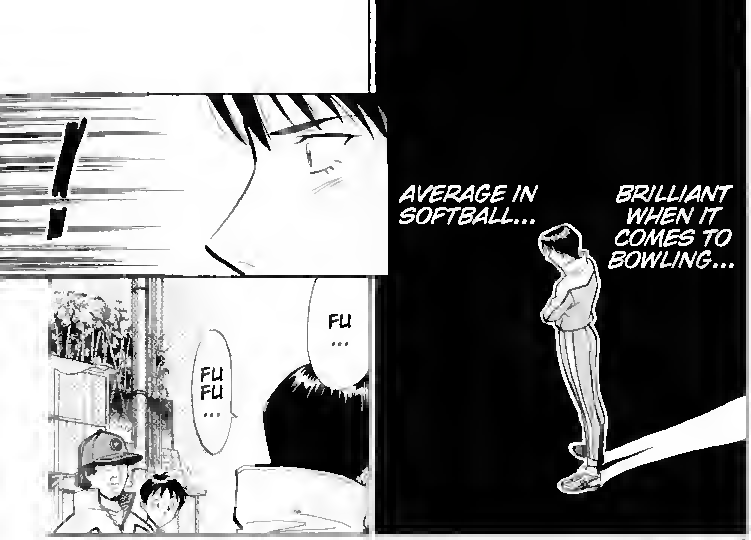
SHE HAS COME A LONG WAY IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...
AND THOUGH SHE HAS REACHED A HIGH LEVEL..
SHE STILL ..
OSAKA WINTER BATTLE STANCE!
CAN BE HIT!
WAH.
OHH. THAT ONE REALLY FLEW.

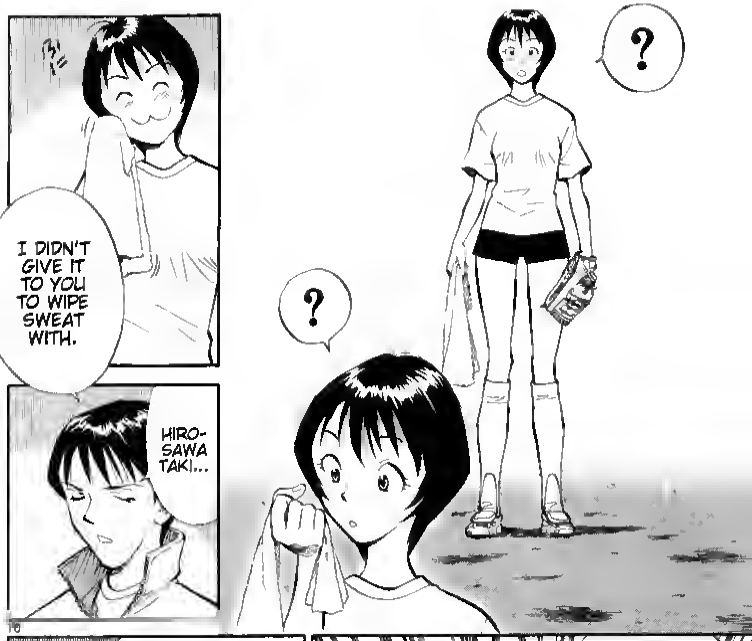
HEH
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
NICE ONE, MIHARA-SAN!
.....
JUST YOU WAIT!!
BUT IT WAS A FLUKE.
DO YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING!? SHE CAN ONLY GET BETTER!!
WHEN SHE WAS BOWLING, HIROSAWA WAS NO LESS THAN BRILLIANT!
I'M TELLING YOU THAT HIROSAWA IS BETTER THAN YOU THINK!
CERTAINLY HER BOWLING SKILLS HELPED HER WEATHER THAT LAST GAME, BUT...
Like that
Like this
Geez

IF SHE GREW SO MUCH IN A MERE WEEK, THEN SHE MUST BE BRILLIANT!
NO!! THERE MUST BE A WAY!!
BOWLING IS BOWLING. SOFTBALL IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THING.
THAT KIND OF PATCHWORK SOLUTION CAN ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.
SKILLS?
IF YOU HELP HER DEVELOP HER SKILLS, SHE WILL CONTINUE TO GET BETTER!!
FINE, FINE.
WELL, YOU ARE THE SUPER-VISOR, SO...
THEY... WELL... UM...
EH!?
WHICH SKILLS?
.....
Please wait a minute!


!
AVERAGE IN SOFTBALL...
BRILLIANT WHEN IT COMES TO BOWLING...
FU ...
FU FU ...

3

?
?
FUFU FUFU... HAHA!
KOUEI
KOUEI

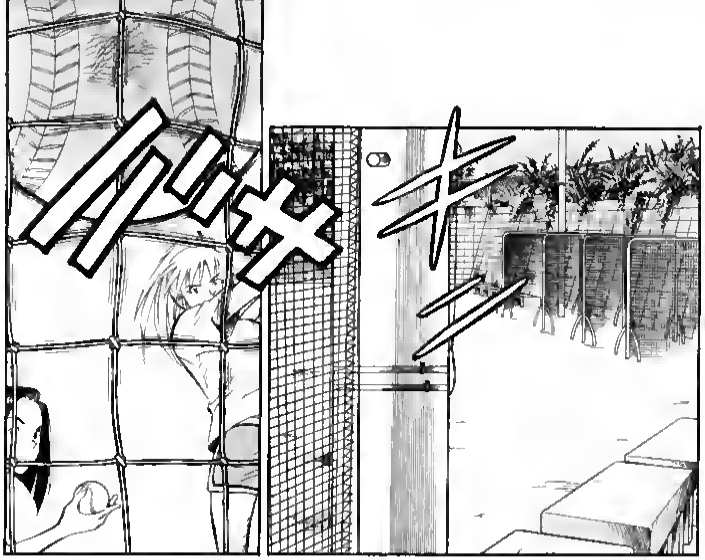

I DIDN'T GIVE IT TO YOU TO WIPE SWEAT WITH.
?
?
HIRO-SAWA TAKI...

WHY...!? IF I DO THAT THEN I WILL LOSE THE SENSATION OF THROWING A BALL...
EHH!? WHAT'S THAT!?
FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, STARTING TODAY, YOUR ONLY PRACTICE WILL BE SHADOW PITCHING WITH THAT TOWEL.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO PITCH THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...
YOU WILL NEVER BE AN ABOVE AVERAGE PITCHER.
BUT ...
HIRO-SAWA TAKI...
LIST-EN...
BUT I HAVE PUT MY FAITH IN YOU.
AND IF MY THINKING IS CORRECT THEN, WITH THIS SHADOW PITCHING YOU WILL...
YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO BECOME GREATER!!

COACH .....
YOU'D BE POPULAR IF YOU WERE A GUY...
!!?
BECAUSE YOU'RE GALLANT!
I WILL BELIEVE.

AND FOR ME IT'S NOT ALL THAT IMPROBABLE TO IMPROVE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME!!
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU, COACH!
13
I'LL DO IT!!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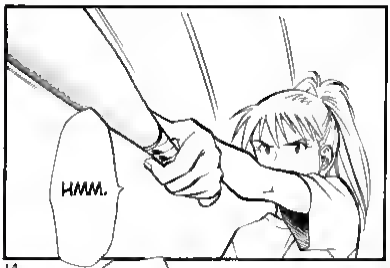
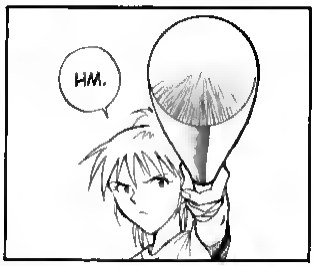
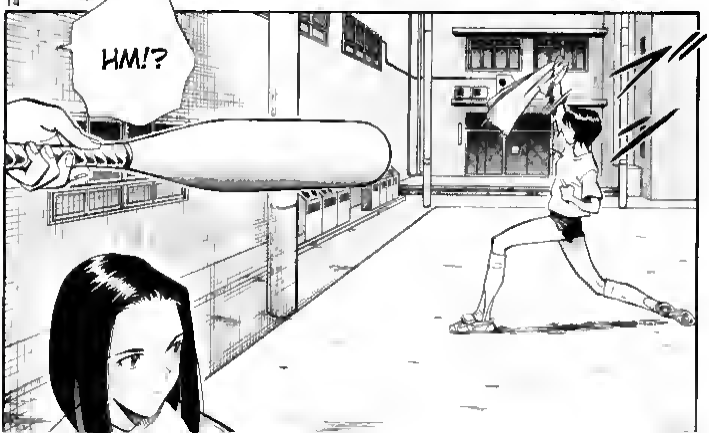
キン

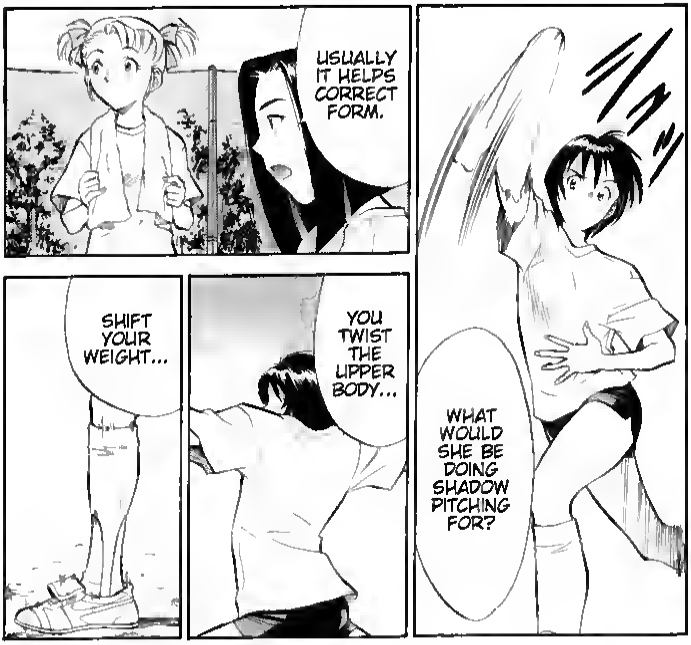

HMM.


HM.


HM!?

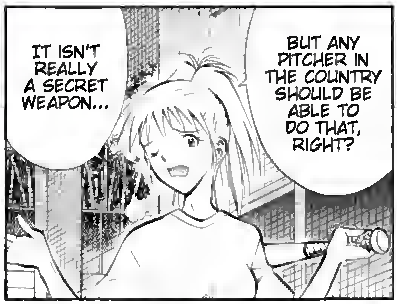
WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS THAT!?
SHADOW PITCHING .....
BUT A SECRET TRAINING USING SHADOW PITCHING .....
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE OLD?
Babe Ruth wouldn't even fall for that.

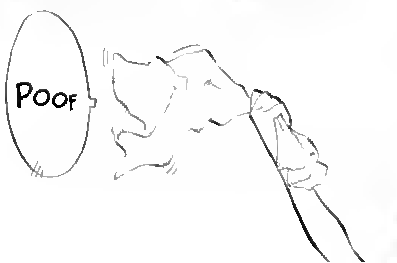
15

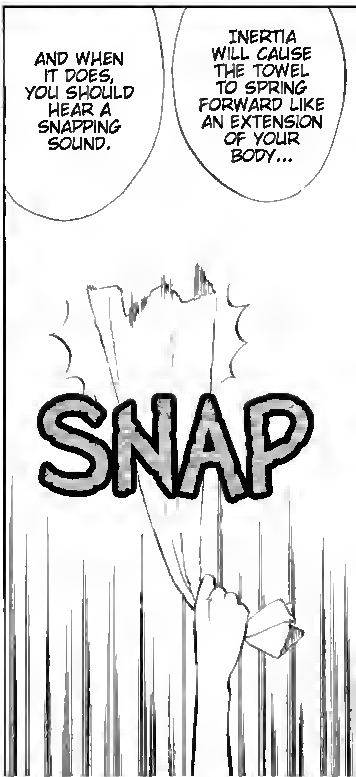

USUALLY IT HELPS CORRECT FORM.
WHAT WOULD SHE BE DOING SHADOW PITCHING FOR?
YOU TWIST THE UPPER BODY...
SHIFT YOUR WEIGHT...

THEN WHIP!

FOLLOW THROUGH TIGHTLY WITH THE ARM...


IT ISN'T REALLY A SECRET WEAPON...
BUT ANY PITCHER IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT, RIGHT?


POOF


INERTIA WILL CAUSE THE TOWEL TO SPRING FORWARD LIKE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR BODY...
AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU SHOULD HEAR A SNAPPING SOUND.
SNAP

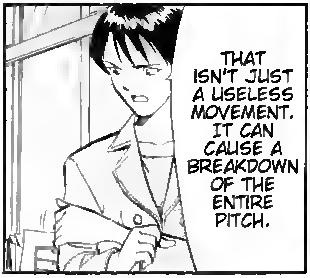
……
WHAT IS IT, MIDORI…?
IT WON'T MAKE THE SNAPPING SOUND
THE TOWEL IS REALLY LIGHT WHEN IT'S NOT WET.
?
?
THAT'S IT…
THE LIGHT-NESS!?
IT'S THE LIGHTNESS!

STAFF ROOM
職員室
YEAH.
THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOFTBALL AND BOWLING?
THAT WOULD BE THE SIZE AND HEAVINESS OF THE BALL.

IT'S THE HEAVINESS!!
...OH...
WATANABE-SENSEI, THIS IS THE SAME WEIGHT AS THE BALL SHE USES.
ドサッ
SO IT SEEMS
HIROSAWA TAKI IS A BRILLIANT BOWLER.
19
YOU USE THE CENTRI-FUGAL FORCE OF THAT BALL TO THROW IT.

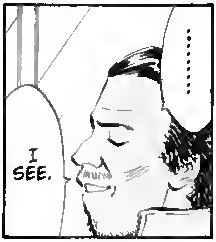
AND, I AM ALSO ...
WHEN WE'RE NOT ON THE SOFTBALL DIAMOND, YOU'RE A TEACHER.
NO.
DON'T CALL ME SENSEI. YOU CAN JUST CALL ME KANTOKU, COACH NISHIKADO.
YOU'RE AS STIFF AS EVER.
20
THAT IS 7 KILOS.
IT IS.
IT'S HEAVY ...
THIS IS A 16LB. WOMEN'S BALL.

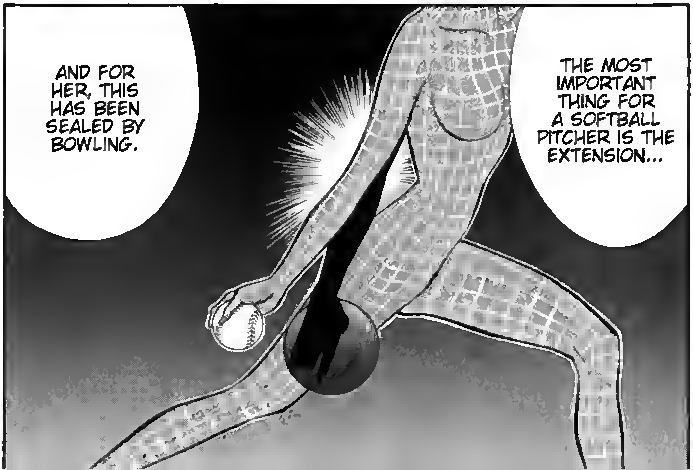
……


THAT ISN'T JUST A USELESS MOVEMENT. IT CAN CAUSE A BREAKDOWN OF THE ENTIRE PITCH.

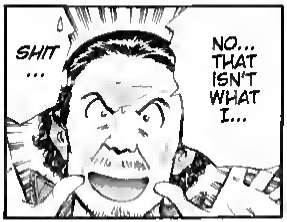
BECAUSE OF THE WEIGHT OF THE BALL, THE ARM IS ALWAYS FULLY EXTENDED.

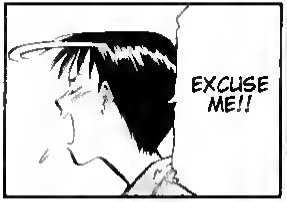
THE WEIGHT GREATLY RESTRICTS THE ARM, AND DOESN'T ALLOW MUCH MOVEMENT.


……
I SEE.


AND FOR HER, THIS HAS BEEN SEALED BY BOWLING.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A SOFTBALL PITCHER IS THE EXTENSION...

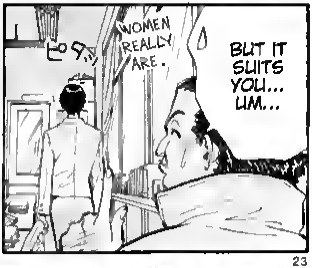
IT'S A HUGE GAMBLE.
BUT IT SHOULD TAKE A LONG TIME FOR THAT TRAINING TO OVERCOME THE WEIGHT DIFFERENCE THAT BOWLING HAS INGRAINED INTO HER.
22
IT'S JUST RARE TO SEE YOU WEARING A SKIRT.
.....
OH YEAH, COACH NISHIKADO.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
IS TODAY A SPECIAL DAY, OR SOMETHING?


SHIT ...
NO... THAT ISN'T WHAT I...


EXCUSE ME!!

DO I!?
DO I HAVE TO HAVE A SPECIAL REASON TO WEAR A SKIRT!?

NO
NO


WOMEN REALLY ARE.
BUT IT SUITS YOU... UM...

23

.....

PAN
PAN
PAN
HO.
24
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TAK!?
Everyone thinks it is weird.
HEHE, WELL, YOU SEE...
Hmm
IT IS A SEC-RET. ♡

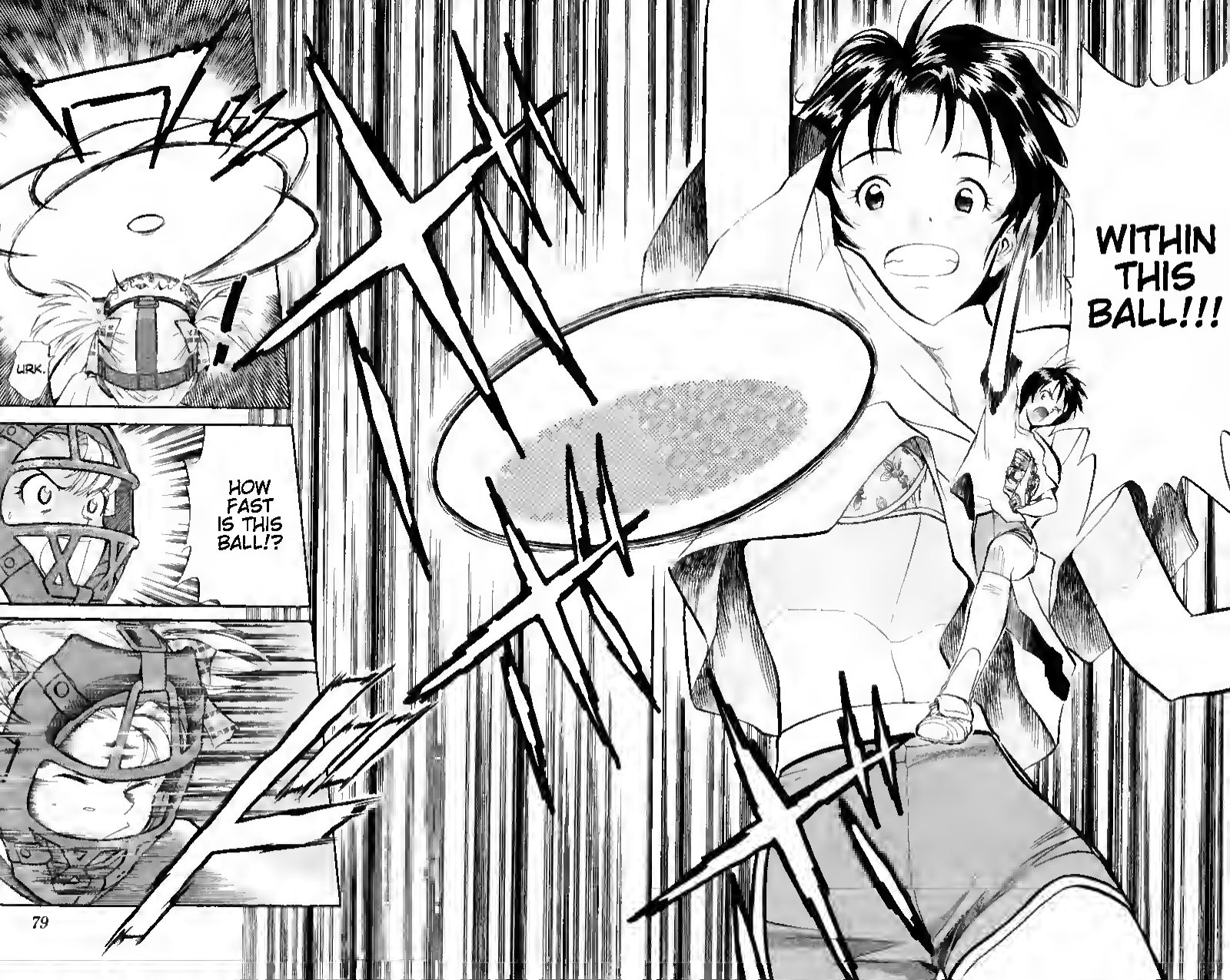
PAN
MAY 28
MAY 30
JUNE 5
JUNE 7
JUNE 10

SNAP
26
AHA

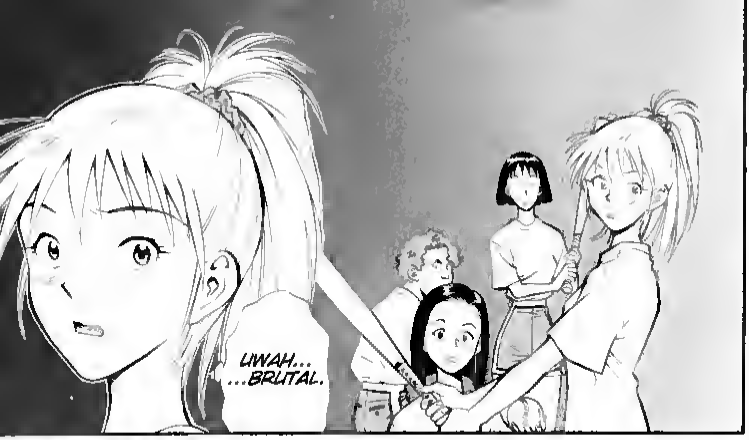
THAT SOUND FELT GREAT!!
YAY!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I'VE MISSED YOU.♡
CHU♥

YEAH!
YOU DID WELL THESE 3 WEEKS.
YOU'VE WANTED TO THROW THE BALL, HAVEN'T YOU?
THROW IT!!
KOUEI
WITH THE DESIRE THAT HAS BUILT UP FOR 3 WEEKS...
28
GA
ZAN

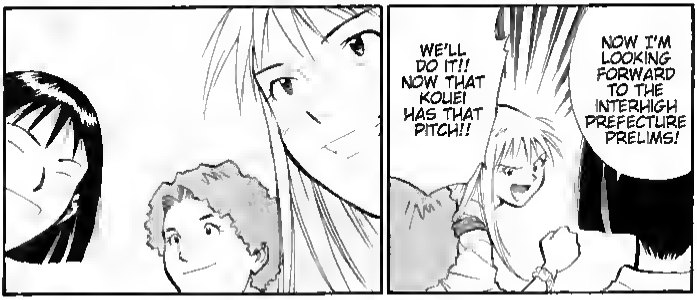
THIS
Sooo
OF 3
WEEKS
...
THE
CUL-
MIN-
ATI-
ON...
TIGHT
3 WEEKS
WORTH OF
DESIRE!!
TIGHT


WITHIN THIS BALL!!!
URK.
HOW FAST IS THIS BALL!?

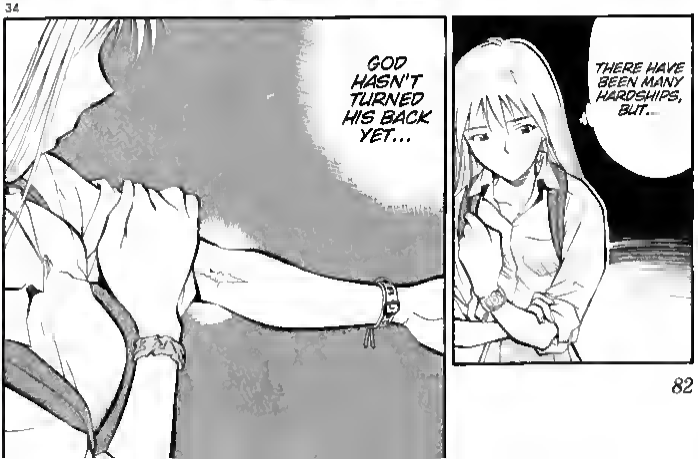
32
U... UWAH.
.....
THE TAKI BALL ...
HAS BEEN COMP-LETED!
UEI
ゴゴゴ...
UHH

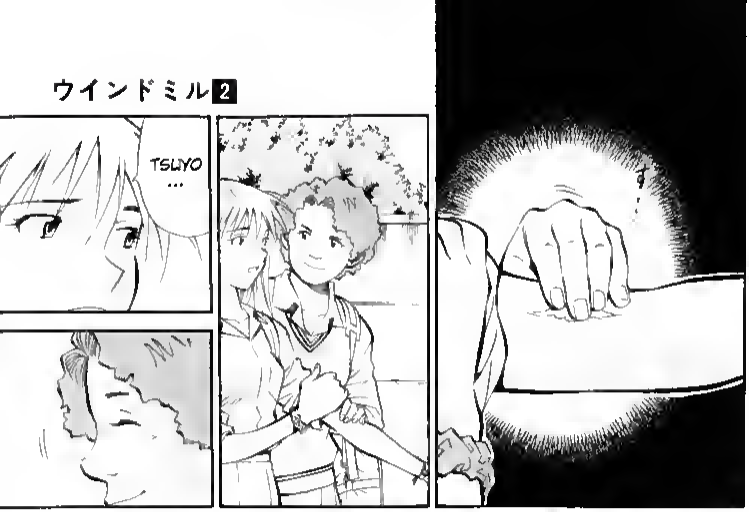

UWAH...
...BRUTAL.

AS MUCH AS I BOAST ABOUT MY STRENGTH, I HAVE TO CONCEDE TO THAT PITCH.
REALLY, MIHARA, I'M GLAD SHE'S ON OUR SIDE.
IF SHE PITCHES LIKE THAT, NO BATTER WILL BE ABLE TO TOUCH HER.
THAT PITCH WAS AWESOME.


WE'LL DO IT!! NOW THAT KOUEI HAS THAT PITCH!!
NOW I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE INTERHIGH PREFECTURE PRELIMS!

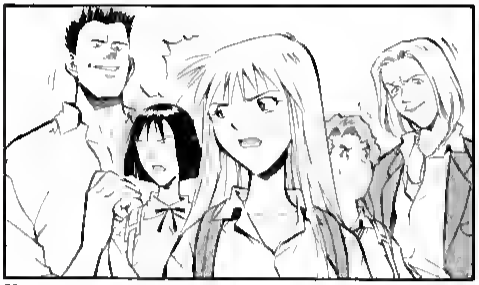
34


GOD HASN'T TURNED HIS BACK YET...
THERE HAVE BEEN MANY HARDSHIPS, BUT...



35

WELL WELL, IF IT ISN'T MIHARA-CHAN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
ﾌｯﾌｯﾌｯ



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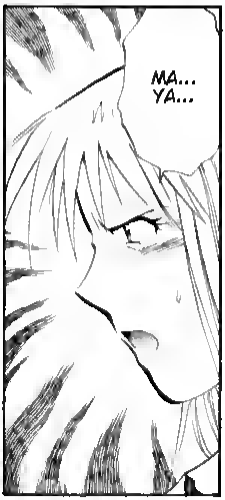
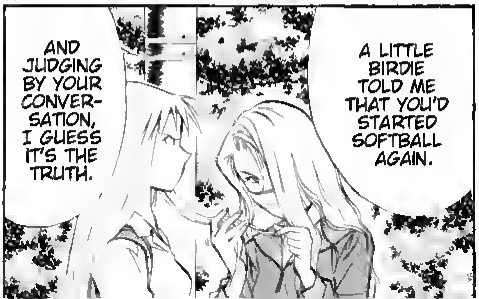
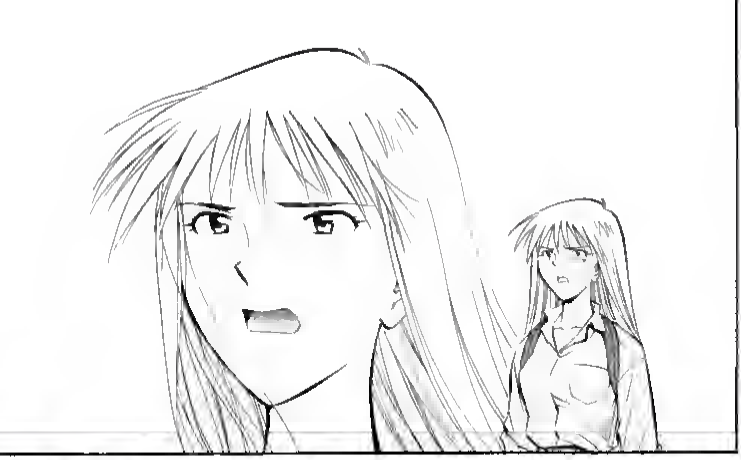

MA... YA...


A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME THAT YOU'D STARTED SOFTBALL AGAIN.
AND JUDGING BY YOUR CONVERSATION, I GUESS IT'S THE TRUTH.

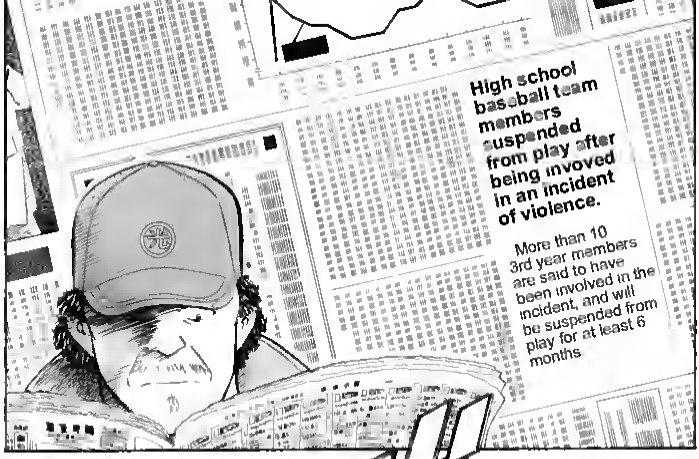
I WON'T ...
I WON'T ...
ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR YOUTH!?
GU.
...THAT HURT...
I WON'T ...
I WON'T ...
37

THIS SCAR WON'T LET YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME!!
I WON'T LET YOU!!



GOOD NIGHT.
WELL, GOOD NIGHT, WATA-NABE-SENSEI.

!


High school baseball team members suspended from play after being invoved in an incident of violence.
More than 10 3rd year members are said to have been involved in the incident, and will be suspended from play for at least 6 months

ACK.

40

AHA.

MINI-CHAN! IT'D BE GREAT IF WE COULD WIN, NE?
Y... YEAH.
WHAT A SCARY PITCH...